

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 H-02 SSM-05 ISO-00
PA-02 SIG-03 SS-15 EB-08 SAA-01 /083 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----101430 152208Z /66

O 152057Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
DOD
USICA
NSC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 15

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 15, 1978.
SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

MR. CARTER: THE U.S.-ISRAELI PROTOCOL ON CIVIL AVIATION
WILL BE SIGNED AT 3:30 P.M., AUGUST 16TH, IN THE 7TH FLOOR
WEST RECEPTION ROOM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. DEPUTY
SECRETARY WARREN CHRISTOPHER WILL SIGN FOR THE UNITED
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STATES, AND AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ FOR ISRAEL. THE
PROTOCOL INCLUDES A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND TARIFF ARRANGEMENT
AND ADDITIONAL LANDING RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR
EL-AL.

A PRESS RELEASE ON THIS PROTOCOL WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE
PRESS OFFICE TOMORROW MORNING.

Q. IS THE DEPARTMENT DOING ANYTHING ON THE HILL TO SEE
IF IT CAN CHANGE THE CUT-OFF OF AID TO SYRIA, WHICH WENT
THROUGH THE HOUSE?

A. WELL, WE'VE EXPRESSED OUR OPINION ON THE CUT-OFF AID TO
SYRIA. CLEARLY WE HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL FIND A WAY
TO RESTORE IT. THAT'S A STATEMENT OF THE OBVIOUS.

Q. I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT THE ROLE SYRIA IS PLAYING
TO HELP EITHER THE PEACE EFFORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR
THE DECENCY IN TREATING CIVILIANS. THEY ARE SHELLING
CIVILIAN RESIDENTIAL AREAS FOR DAYS ON END NOW. THEY ARE
CALLED PEACEKEEPING FORCES, ARE THEY ESTABLISHING A

GRAVEYARD TO ESTABLISH PEACE? WHAT'S SYRIA DOING?

A. JOE (POLAKOFF), WE HAVE ITEMIZED SEVERAL THINGS. I'D BE GLAD TO GIVE YOU THE TEXT OF THE REASONS. I DON'T REALLY WANT TO ARGUE WITH YOU AGAIN TODAY.

Q. WHEN WAS THE TEXT ISSUED?

A. WHEN I WENT THIS SAME DIALOGUE BEFORE, AS TO WHY WE FELT SYRIA WAS IMPORTANT IN THE PROCESS.

Q. HOW LONG AGO WAS THIS?

A. AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST CUT OF AID. WHEN IT WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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TAKEN OUT IN THE INITIAL VOTE.

Q. BUT SINCE THEN THERE HAS BEEN NO RECONSIDERATION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. NO.

Q. MAYBE YOU TOUCHED ON THIS YESTERDAY, THIS ARTICLE THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS RETREATED ON THE ARAB BOYCOTT. IT MENTIONS THE STATE DEPARTMENT TOO. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT? IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO IT? AND IF SO, WOULD THE STATE DEPARTMENT BE DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

A. LET ME MAKE THE OBVIOUS OBSERVATION FIRST. WE AREN'T GOING TO HAVE ANY COMMENT TO OFFER ON A POSITION REPORTEDLY TAKEN BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SINCE IT'S A MATTER UNDER LITIGATION. WE WOULD WANT TO ADD, HOWEVER, WE DON'T WISH TO CHARACTERIZE THE JUSTICE ACTION AS A "RETREAT." WE SUPPORTED MOVES TO REGULATE BOYCOTT INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. FIRMS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A CONSISTENT REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, WHICH IS CLEAR AND WORKABLE, IS THE BEST WAY TO PROMOTE ALL OF THE VARIOUS INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THIS FIELD.

WE HAVE CONSULTED INTENSIVELY WITH COMMERCE AND JUSTICE AND ARE CONTINUING THESE CONSULTATIONS TO THAT PARTICULAR

END. INsofar AS THE BECHTEL CASE ITSELF IS CONCERNED, IT IS STILL IN LITIGATION, AND I AM NOT IN ANY POSITION CONSEQUENTLY TO OFFER ANY COMMENT.

I CANNOT NOW GIVE YOU TEXT AND VERSE ON HOW OUR NEGOTIATIONS CAME OUT LAST YEAR ON THIS QUESTION WHICH, UNCLASSIFIED

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IF YOU RECALL, WAS PRETTY INTENSIVE. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO TRY TO PULL IT FOR YOU IF YOU WANT SOMETHING MORE.

Q. ARE THERE PREPARATIONS YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT? THERE ARE REPORTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT MEETING WITH ONE AND THEN WITH BEGIN, AND THEN WITH SADAT AND HAVING THEM MEET TOGETHER?

A. I'VE SEEN THOSE REPORTS AND ALL I CAN SAY IS WHILE I THINK THAT MAY ACCURATELY REFLECT AN OFFICIAL'S THINKING ABOUT WHAT MAY TAKE PLACE, IT IS, I THINK, VERY VERY PREMATURE TO SUGGEST EXACTLY HOW THE SCENARIO IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE. IT IS STILL BEING WORKED THROUGH; IT IS WAY SHORT OF BEING FINALIZED. FOR INSTANCE, THERE IS NO DEFINITE DETERMINATION BY US. WE DONT KNOW, IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN EACH ONE OF THE TWO LEADERS IS GOING TO ARRIVE PRECISELY YET. SO IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO WORK OUT A DETAILED SCENARIO.

Q. ACTUALLY THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ISRAELIS AND THE EGYPTIANS.

A. ABSOLUTELY, CERTAINLY. ALL I'M SAYING IS WHOEVER SAID THAT WAS OBVIOUSLY THINKING OUT LOUD ABOUT WAYS TO DO THINGS. BUT IT IS NOT SET.

Q. HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING, ANY COMMENT ON THE RETURN OF THE 500-MAN UNIT IN THE SOUTH OF LEBANON?

A. I KNEW ABOUT IT, WHICH IS FRANKLY A PARROTING OF THE OFFICIAL LEBANESE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON IT. WE DO NOT KNOW, ON OUR OWN, WHAT THE STATUS IS OUT THERE. AS WE UNDERSTAND--AND LET ME JUST READ IT. WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT PART OF THE UNIT, PART OF THAT UNIT, NOT ALL OF IT, HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN A SHORT DISTANCE FROM ITS BASE CAMP. WE WOULD NOTE THAT A LEBANESE ARMY STATEMENT TODAY
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SAID THAT THE DECISION TO SEND THE ARMY UNIT TO THE SOUTH HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED, AND THAT THE UNIT IS STILL STATIONED IN THE GENERAL AREA. THE STATEMENT ADDS THAT IT'S BEEN RE-DEPLOYED FOR SECURITY AND TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

I AM PARROTING THIS BECAUSE WE DONT KNOW ANYTHING BEYOND

IT. NEGOTIATIONS TO PERMIT THE UNIT TO DEPLY AS
ORIGINALLY PLANNED ARE CONTINUING. I JUST DONT HAVE
ANYTHING BEYOND THAT.

Q. WHY DID AMBASSADOR PARKER ASK THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT
NOT TO ASK THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO MEET AND DISCUSS THE
FATE OF THIS?

A. I SAW THE NEWS REPORT THAT HE HAD DONE SO, I REALLY
WOULDN'T COMMENT ON THAT REPORT, NOR WOULD I CONFIRM
OR DENY ANYTHING AMBASSADOR PARKER MAY HAVE SAID TO EITHER
MR. BUTROS, MR. SARKIS OR WHOEVER. I JUST WOULD NOT GO
INTO THOSE CONVERSATIONS.

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